

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-12 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /120 W
-----052600 252247Z /70

O 252216Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0965
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01650

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: NIGERIAN CONTINGENT FOR UNIFIL

1. SUMMARY: UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL URQUHART ON APRIL 25
PROVIDED US WITH SECRETARY GENERAL'S LETTER TO SECURITY
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COUNCIL PRESIDENT INFORMING PRESIDENT OF SECRETARY GENER-
AL'S INTENT, "SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONSULTATIONS", TO
ACCEPT NIGERIA'S OFFER OF A BATTALION FOR UNIFIL. UNNY
PROJECTS SCENARIO OF ADDITIONAL LETTER ON APRIL 28 CON-
CERNING UNIFIL ENLARGEMENT WITH SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING
ON MAY 2. END SUMMARY.

2. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL URQUHART TOLD POLCOUNS APRIL 25 THAT, AFTER LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH LEBANESE PERM REP TUENI THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON, THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO HAD BEEN WORKED OUT. APRIL 25: LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL TO SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ON ADDITION OF NIGERIAN CONTINGENT ON WHICH HE SUGGESTED PRESIDENCY (US) COULD CONSULT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS BY TELEPHONE; APRIL 28: FURTHER LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL TO SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ON ENLARGING UNIFIL TO 6,000 MEN; MAY 2: FORMAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING (PRECEDED BY SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS IF REQUIRED) TO ENDORSE ENLARGEMENT. URQUHART SAID THAT TUENI CONSIDERED SCENARIO SALEABLE TO THE ARABS AND SAID KUWAITI PERM REP BISHARA WAS IN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE.

3. MEANWHILE, URQUHART NOTED, DURING NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS SECRETARIAT AND DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK WILL BE WATCHING PHASE III OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL (WHICH HE THOUGHT THERE WAS NO REASON TO DOUBT WOULD BE EXECUTED BY APRIL 30) AND FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING GENERAL SIILASVUO'S CONVERSATIONS WITH IDF ON PHASE IV.

4. ON NIGERIAN CONTINGENT, WALDHEIM'S LETTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WHICH IS BEING CIRCULATED INFORMALLY TO SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON APRIL 25, STATES THAT WITH THE SENEGALESE BATTALION AND THE REMAINDER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE LOGISTIC UNITS THE FORCE WILL HAVE A TOTAL STRENGTH OF 3,500 BY THE END OF APRIL IF ONE EXCLUDES THE IRANIAN AND SWEDISH COMPANIES ON TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT. THE LATTER, SYG NOTES, "WILL HAVE TO RETURN TO THEIR PARENT UNITS IN THE NEAR FUTURE." WALDHEIM CONTINUES THAT NIGERIA HAS OFFERED TO MAKE AVAILABLE A BATTALION CONTINGENT AND HE INTENDS, "SUBJECT TO THE USUAL CONSULTATIONS", TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER. THIS CONTINGENT W WLD BRING THE FORCE TO ITS TOTAL AUTHORIZED STRENGTH, "IN THE ORDER OF 4,000." WALDHEIM CONCLUDES BY RECALLING THAT HE HAD ADVISED THE COUNCIL THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF THE FORCE TO 6,000 AND THAT HE WILL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ON THIS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. URQUHART THOUGHT CONSULTATIONS BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ON ADDING THE NIGERIAN CONTINGENT COULD PERHAPS BE DONE BEST BY TELEPHONE. THE POSSIBILITY OF A NIGERIAN CONTINGENT HAS ALREADY BEEN MENTIONED TWICE TO THE COUNCIL DURING EARLIER CONSULTATIONS. THIS PLAN WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TUENI'S THINKING, WHO STATED IN ADDITION THAT THERE WAS NO ARAB DISPOSITION TO HOLD AN SC MEETING THIS WEEK. (THIS DESPITE BISHARA'S CALL FOR A MEETING

THIS WEEK AT THE COUNCIL'S LAST CONSULTATIONS ON APRIL 20.) URQUHART NOTED THAT SYG WALDHEIM WILL MEET WITH NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA LATER APRIL 25 AND WILL URGE GARBA TO SEND CONTINGENT TO SOUTH LEBANON AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

6. ON QUESTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTING ON FINANCING FOR UNIFIL ENLARGEMENT, URQUHART ENVISAGED CONSIDERATION DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DISARMAMENT IN LATE MAY. UNIFIL HAS ENOUGH MONEY IN ITS OPERATING FUND TO MAKE IT THROUGH UNTIL THEN, HE SAID.

7. IN CONCLUDING CONVERSATION, URQUHART REMARKED THAT FRENCH CONTINGENT WOULD SOON BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH A MINE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01650

CLEARING DETACHMENT. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT HE DOUBTED THE LEBANESE COULD PROVIDE GENDARMES AND HE QUESTIONED WISDOM OF UNIFIL INCLUDING UN CIVILIAN POLICE AMONG ITS RANKS AT THIS STAGE. HE EXPLAINED THAT PROBLEM WITH UN CIVPOLS IS THAT THEY CANNOT MAKE ARRESTS; THEY CAN STOP AND ATTEMPT TO DISARM BUT THEY THEN HAVE TO HAND OVER INDIVIDUALS TO NATIONAL CIVIL AUTHORITY, WHICH IS VIRTUALLY CONFIDENTIAL

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NONEXISTENT IN SOUTH LEBANON. HE ADDED UN CIVILIAN POLICE IN CYPRUS DO FUNCTION WELL, OPERATING BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES, AND IDEA OF UN GENDARMES IN SOUTH LEBANON MAY BE CONSIDERED FURTHER LATER ON. YOUNG

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